UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/26253
6 August 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 5 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the note that has been handed to the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Albania in Belgrade.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Republic of Albania and has the honour to announce that the following incidents took place on the Yugoslav-Albanian border on 18, 24 and 27 July 1993.

On 18 July 1993, around 5.15 p.m. near border stone No. 2A/2 in the area of Ulcinj, an Albanian soldier from a three-member patrol opened fire from an automatic rifle, firing 20 to 30 shots just above the heads of the Yugoslav patrol in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The fire was opened at the moment when the Yugoslav patrol caught four Albanian citizens illegally crossing the border. In addition to the Albanian patrol, a group of 20 civilians shouted and protested at the same time on the Albanian side of the border.

The incident was reported to the Albanian side.

On 24 July 1993, around 10 a.m., eight Albanian citizens armed with hunting rifles and pistols crossed some 30 to 50 metres deep into Yugoslav territory near border stone No. C2/6 in the region of the Kosara security post near Djakovica. As the Yugoslav border patrol came along, the Albanian citizens opened fire, the Yugoslav patrol returned fire and two Albanians were wounded. As the wounded fell, fire was opened at the Yugoslav patrol from a bunker on the Albanian side of the border. Protected by the fire, the group withdrew and took its wounded. After reinforcement was called in, fire was opened at the Albanian bunker, to make it possible for the Yugoslav patrol to withdraw. At about 11 a.m. a large group of Albanian citizens gathered at the same place in Albanian territory with whom were four armed European Community observers. No fire was opened from the Albanian side on that occasion. However, at about 12 noon fire was opened from the Albanian side from the direction of border stone No. 2, to which the Yugoslav border patrol did not answer.

A meeting of a local joint commission was requested by the Yugoslav side.

On 27 July 1993, at about 11.45 a.m., three Albanian citizens entered about 50 metres deep into Yugoslav territory in the area of the security post Kosara near Djakovica, to pick up berries. A Yugoslav border patrol ordered them to return to the Albanian side. As they refused to do so, the border patrol fired one shot into the air. The Albanian citizens then opened fire at the patrol. When the Yugoslav patrol fired back, they returned to Albanian territory. It is possible that one Albanian citizen was wounded. The same day at 1.15 p.m. the Albanian border patrol opened fire from the same location at the Yugoslav authorities, who did not answer to the provocation.

In all three cases the Yugoslav border authorities acted according to the rules of service.

Recalling the Yugoslav notes (No. 184/93 of 17 February 1993, No. 184/6-93 of 28 April 1993 and No. 184/8-93 of 7 June 1993) forwarded to the Embassy of the Republic of Albania in Belgrade concerning the incidents at the Yugoslav-Albanian border, the Yugoslav side lodges herewith the strongest protest over

the above incidents and reiterates once again the Albanian side's obligation to take immediately all necessary measures to prevent the illegal crossing of its citizens to the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Albanian side is also warned of the serious consequences which may ensue from the opening of fire by the Albanian border guards and Albanian citizens at the Yugoslav border guards which occurred in the above three instances.

The frequent incidents at the border require an early meeting of the Main Joint Yugoslav-Albanian Commission for Border Incidents, which the Albanian side has been postponing since June 1992 for unclear and unjustified reasons, regardless of numerous initiatives launched by the Yugoslav side.

2 August 1993